

REMARKS

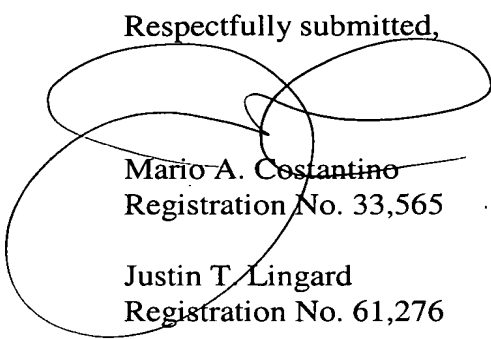
Claims 7-25, 29, 30 and 40-83 are pending in this application. Claims 69-76 are indicated as being withdrawn, but Applicants submit that these claims should be examined along with the claims of Group I for the reasons set forth below. By this Amendment, claims 7-10, 12, 14, 17-21, 23, 30, 41, 44, 45, 47, 50-53, 55, 57, 59-62, 65, 70, 72 and 74-80 are amended and claims 82 and 83 are added. Support for added claims 82 and 83 can be found, for example, in claims 14 and 50. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In reply to the August 26, 2011 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 7-25, 29-30, 40-68 and 77-81, with traverse. It is submitted that added claims 82 and 83 also belong to Group I because these claims correspond to claims 14 and 50, respectively, which recite transferring a wafer from an outside. Further, in view of the addition of claims 82 and 83, which depend from claims 69 and 75, respectively, Applicants submit that Group II, claims 69-76, should be examined along with the claims of Group I.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 28, 2011

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